



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/678,800

10/03/2003

Todd P. Guay

oracle01.026

3882

7590

07/13/2006

Gordon E. Nelson
57 Central St.
P.O. Box 782
Rowley, MA 01969

EXAMINER

AHLUWALIA, NAVNEET K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2166

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/678,800

Applicant(s)

GUAY ET AL.

Examiner

Navneet K. Ahluwalia

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 25-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 25-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The application has been examined. Claims 1 – 8 and 25 – 32 are pending in this office action and 9 – 24 and 33 – 48 are withdrawn from consideration in view of the election made in response to the restriction.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on May 8, 2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "all of the claims belong to class 707, subclass 101. None of this has anything whatever to do with class 707, subclass 203, which concerns version management in database systems" as stated in the response to election/restriction page 1.

3. This is not found persuasive because

- I. Claims 1 – 8 and 25 – 32 are drawn to manipulating data structure, classified in class 707, subclass 101.
- II. Claim 9 – 24 and 33 – 48, drawn to event entries and times of occurrences, classified in class 707, subclass 203.

Group I has separate utility such as aggregating and manipulating the data structure. Group II has separate utility such as roll up entries including event entries and times of occurrences. Also the classification for Group II is class 707, subclass 203 because the claims deal with roll ups are drawn to event entries and time occurrence, and can be classified as version management because of the aspect of relation with time of occurrence.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1 – 8 and 25 – 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Regarding claims 1 and 25, the phrase "may have" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1 – 8 and 25 – 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Langevin et al. ('Langevin' herein after) (US 2004/0120250 A1).

With respect to claim 1,

Langevin discloses a method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an aggregated entry, the method comprising the steps of: making the aggregated entry (Figure 10a elements 166, 168, 170 and 174), the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that may have a plurality of members (Figure 14a, 14b); and deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality thereof (Figure 6 element 93 and paragraph 0054 lines 25 – 34).

With respect to claim 2,

Langevin discloses the method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of: deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry (paragraph 0054 lines 21 – 25).

With respect to claim 3,

Langevin discloses the method set forth in claim 1 wherein: the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the set (Figure 14a, 14b).

With respect to claim 4,

Langevin discloses the method set forth in claim 3 wherein: The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each member is represented by

a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are separated by a separator character (Figure 14a, 14b).

With respect to claim 5,

Langevin discloses the method set forth in claim 1 wherein: the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of members in the set (Figure 14a, 14b).

With respect to claim 6,

Langevin discloses the method set forth in claim 5 wherein: the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding element (Figure 14a, 14b and paragraph 0071).

With respect to claim 7,

Langevin discloses the method set forth in claim 1 wherein: in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the set are derived are time values (Figure 14a element 311).

With respect to claim 8,

Langevin discloses the method set forth in claim 1 wherein: in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the set are derived are location values (Figure 14b element 314).

With respect to claim 25,

Langevin discloses a data storage device, characterized in that: the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs a method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an aggregated entry, the method comprising the steps of: making the aggregated entry (Figure 10a elements 166, 168, 170 and 174), the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that may have a plurality of members (Figure 14a, 14b); and deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality thereof (Figure 6 element 93 and paragraph 0054 lines 25 – 34).

With respect to claim 26,

Langevin discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: the method further comprises the step of deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry (paragraph 0054 lines 21 – 25).

With respect to claim 27,

Langevin discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the set (Figure 14a, 14b).

With respect to claim 28,

Langevin discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in that: The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are separated by a separator character (Figure 14a, 14b).

With respect to claim 29,

Langevin discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of members in the set (Figure 14a, 14b).

With respect to claim 30,

Langevin discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 29 further characterized in that: the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding element (Figure 14a, 14b and paragraph 0071).

With respect to claim 31,

Langevin discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the set are derived are time values (Figure 14a element 311).

With respect to claim 32,

Langevin discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the set are derived are location values (Figure 14b element 314).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Navneet

Navneet K. Ahluwalia
Examiner
Art Unit 2166


MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Dated: 06/30/2006